

Date: Thu, 17 Jun 93 06:30:13 PDT
From: Info-Hams Mailing List and Newsgroup <info-hams@ucsd.edu>
Errors-To: Info-Hams-Errors@UCSD.Edu
Reply-To: Info-Hams@UCSD.Edu
Precedence: Bulk
Subject: Info-Hams Digest V93 #740
To: Info-Hams

Info-Hams Digest Thu, 17 Jun 93 Volume 93 : Issue 740

Today's Topics:

 6m homebrew antenna wanted
 6M multi-hop Es to the US
 75m WAS Award (was CQ...)
 Blue Language Repeaters
 BNC connectors
 Broadcast IDs
 Field day rules question (ARRL)
 ICOM IC-W2A
 Info-Hams Digest V93 #727
 Rat Shack & SAM
 SB200 power supply problems - help please.

Send Replies or notes for publication to: <Info-Hams@UCSD.Edu>
Send subscription requests to: <Info-Hams-REQUEST@UCSD.Edu>
Problems you can't solve otherwise to brian@ucsd.edu.

Archives of past issues of the Info-Hams Digest are available
(by FTP only) from UCSD.Edu in directory "mailarchives/info-hams".

We trust that readers are intelligent enough to realize that all text
herein consists of personal comments and does not represent the official
policies or positions of any party. Your mileage may vary. So there.

Date: 17 Jun 93 04:04:42 GMT
From: pitt.edu!dsinc!wells!beyonet!olwejo!bob@uunet.uu.net
Subject: 6m homebrew antenna wanted
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

I'm looking for instructions for a homebrew (read: very, very cheap)
6m antenna. This is to be used as a fixed base antenna. If you have
such, or know where (FTP) it can be found, please email. Thank you.

--

Bob Kupiec, N3MML | Internet: beyonet!bob@vu-vlsi.vill.edu
Morrisville, PA, USA | (or) bob@zero.com

(40d 12'N / 74d 48'W) | AX.25: n3mml@wb3ftp.#epa.pa.usa.noam
"Motorola 68k Inside!" | 100% UNIX ~ NO DOS! ~ Get WiReD ~ PGP 2.2 Avail

Date: Thu, 17 Jun 1993 00:11:54 GMT
From: agate!usenet.ins.cwru.edu!magnus.acs.ohio-state.edu!csn!csn!stortek!
georgen@ames.arpa
Subject: 6M multi-hop Es to the US
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

In article <fred-mckenzie-140693093901@k4dii.ksc.nasa.gov> fred-
mckenzie@ksc.nasa.gov (Fred McKenzie) writes:
>I'm fairly new to 6 Meter SSB, so haven't had much chance to listen to
>where the "action" is on the band. It apparently doesn't open up very
>often at this phase of the Sunspot Cycle. So far, I only have a 6 meter
>
>Can any of you experienced 6 Meter operators give me some advice? Is there
>a single frequency that would be good to monitor, to hear early signs of a
>band opening? Where do DX CW stations hang out? Many seem to be
>collecting "grid squares". Are they only interested in the first 4
>characters, or does anyone want all 6?
>73, Fred, K4DII
>(EL98np)
>fred-mckenzie@ksc.nasa.gov

The best frequencies to monitor for the US are:

50.125 MHz domestic calling frequency
50.110 MHz intercontinental calling frequency
28.885 MHz international liaison frequency/net.

Use 28.885 MHz to set schedules with DX and/or to find out exactly what
frequency the DX station is using within the DX window between 50.125 to
50.100.

Other frequencies to listen include:

50.080 to 50.000 for beacons indicating areas that are open
35 to 50 MHz for foreign tv broadcast, commercial and police
operations. Precursors to 50 MHz openings
50.080 to 50.100 for cw stations both domestic and dx

My best catch was J52US, found by just wandering around the 50.080 to 50.100
cw portion.

Monitoring 6m can be very boring if listening only to one freq. I usually
set up my IC551D to scan between 50.150 and 50.080 with the squelch off.

Any signal on the band will present itself as a rising/falling pitched tone as the rcvr tunes through it. This tone is stands out from the normal boring rushing waterfall.....

Grid squares - Most US are interested in the 4 alphanumeric indicators.
Some europeans are interested in all 6.
Most of the DX I have worked only sent RST reports
(although 4x grid format is also not unusual).

73 de George, W1XE (/0 - Colorado - 6m European Propagation Black Hole).

Date: 17 Jun 93 12:33:39 GMT
From: news-mail-gateway@ucsd.edu
Subject: 75m WAS Award (was CQ...)
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

> What is the significance of the 2x1, et cetera, "A" call letters? While my
> call doesn't meet your specifications, I can operate 75 Meters from my
> mobile, on the Extra Class frequencies.
>
> 73, Fred, K4DII

The ARRL 75m extra-class WAS award is for contacts with extra-class formatted calls on the extra-class portion of the 75m band. That means 1x2, 2x1, or 2x2 "A" calls. Neither your call nor my call will qualify, nor will 2x2 "K" calls, although we can certainly EARN the award. After you get the ARRL award, with its serial no., the GERATOL (Greetings Extra-class Radio Amateurs - Tired of Operating Lately?) NET will give you its certificate. I think the Geratol Certificate is one of the prettiest ones around. And the GERATOLers are some of the friendliest and most helpful netters around - I went to their gathering at Dayton and thoroughly enjoyed meeting them. The ARRL WAS certificate no. becomes your Geratol Number. The Geratol Net then has a bunch of endorsements (over 20 different ones), which seem to be for the wallpaper collector who has everything else: WAS 1x2, WAS 2x1, WAS 1x3 "W", WAS 2x3, WAS w/ YLs, WAS with callsigns which are also the initials of the operator, etc. etc. etc. Its kind of fun. The Net meets every night around 3768 kHz at 0100Z October through April, but they continue to get together informally during the summer months, same time and frequency. I usually work 20m CW for awhile every evening and then wander over to the net to say howdy. But I'm not likely to pick up my remaining 3 states (FL, ID, & AK) during the summer unless I can find a sked.

steve - W3GRG
mosier@iris.uncg.edu dit dit

Date: Sun, 13 Jun 1993 11:02:58 GMT
From: pravda.sdsc.edu!news.cerf.net!usc!howland.reston.ans.net!darwin.sura.net!
knuth.mtsu.edu!raider!theporch!jackatak!martinbw@network.UCSD.EDU
Subject: Blue Language Repeaters
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

gary@ke4zv.uucp (Gary Coffman) writes:

> This case is difficult only because radio waves don't have specific
> boundaries, and anyone may listen in on conversations not intended
> for their ears. Thus *other* communities may find what they overhear
> on this repeater obscene. My cut on that, as with content questions
> in broadcasting, is that that is one of the reasons for off switches
> and tuning knobs. No one need be offended because no one is *forced*
> to listen to, or watch, that which offends them. There are all too
> many Mrs. Grundys in the world who wish to force their morality on
> others. They should be told firmly to not poke their noses into
> other people's business.
>

Gary, here is where I have to disagree with you. For years before becoming a ham I had read that the good and law abiding ham did not use foul language on the air. The first time I heard a conversation on 75 meters I was appalled. I could not believe the language I was hearing. While I do have a volume knob and an on/off switch; it was too late, I already heard the conversation. Now I can't say that I heard words that I have never heard before but to hear hams using that kind of language on the air was a great surprise and I can only hope these guys are in the minority and someone is out there to gently remind them that this is not proper ham operation and if that doesn't take hold more drastic action be taken.

I step down from the soapbox,

73
Bruce

* Bruce W. Martin Internet: martinbw@jackatak.raider.net.com *
* 4558 Brooke Valley Dr. AOL: Dragon16 *
* Hermitage TN 37076-2650 HAM Call: KQ4TV *
* Voice: (615) 872-9942 Work: (615) 244-2022 *
* FAX/MODEM: (615) 885-4182 *

Date: Wed, 16 Jun 93 15:11:17 GMT
From: pravda.sdsc.edu!news.cerf.net!usc!howland.reston.ans.net!darwin.sura.net!
news-feed-1.peachnet.edu!umn.edu!csus.edu!netcom.com!netcomsv!bongo!skyld!
jangus@network.UCSD.EDU
Subject: BNC connectors
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

Right, and the type 'C' connectors are named after Craig Shergold.

J. Angus: jangus@skyld.tele.com -- "Als ik Kan", Gustav Stickley
US Mail: PO Box 4425 Carson, CA 90749-4425 1 (310) 324-6080

Date: 17 Jun 93 05:43:45 GMT
From: ogicse!emory!wa4mei!ke4zv!gary@network.UCSD.EDU
Subject: Broadcast IDs
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

In article <1vo7di\$bvq@usenet.INS.CWRU.Edu> dd711@cleveland.Freenet.Edu (Charles W. Reti) writes:

>
>To address the ID question, Call and location are required, as
>others have indicated. I do not believe there is any reg about
>frequency for radio ID's. Once an hour as near to the top of the
>hour as possible. They may be burying it but it's supposed to be

The rules used to require the ID to be as close to the top of the hour as possible, but that's been deleted in the latest rules. Instead it just says "once an hour at a natural break in the program".

The content has to be the callsign immediately followed by the city of license. Frequency data is not required. Another oddity, "TV" is part of the legal callsign of a broadcast TV station. They have to say "WXIA-TV Atlanta" not just "WXIA Atlanta" to be legal. No station slogan is allowed between the callsign and city of license, though it may proceed or follow them.

Gary

--
Gary Coffman KE4ZV | You make it, | gatech!wa4mei!ke4zv!gary
Destructive Testing Systems | we break it. | uunet!rsiatl!ke4zv!gary
534 Shannon Way | Guaranteed! | emory!kd4nc!ke4zv!gary

Lawrenceville, GA 30244

Date: Thu, 17 Jun 1993 05:13:01 GMT
From: usc!howland.reston.ans.net!usenet.ins.cwru.edu!nshore!fmsystem!
andrews@uunet.uu.net
Subject: Field day rules question (ARRL)
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

I need a Field Day question answered ASAP,

section 8, part A, subpart 9, says:
VHF/UHF: 100 points can be earned by completing at least 10 QSO's
(excluding packet contacts) on any band or combination of bands
above 50 Mhz (VHF/UHF bands) during the Field Day period. A VHF/
UHF station (one) does not count as an additional transmitter.
This station is not limited to making just 10 QSO's. It may be
operated for the entire field day period and all contacts
(excluding packet contacts) count for QSO points credit, including
the first 10.

My club needs some clarification on this rule from the ARRL.

Please e-mail me a better explanation of this rule.

73 de N80FS

--

..
..

..

Date: Thu, 17 Jun 1993 05:40:43 GMT
From: concert!news-feed-1.peachnet.edu!umn.edu!csus.edu!nic.csu.net!
eis.CalState.EDU!jherndo@decwrl.dec.com
Subject: ICOM IC-W2A
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

I was looking for a good dual band, 2m & 70cm, HT. I have taken a look at
the ICOM IC-W2 HT and really like it.. I was curious to hear opinions on
ICOM products, especially the IC-W2, or any other HT (Kenwood, Yaesu)
manufacturers with this general amount of performance in that general
price range..

Thanks in advance...

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-----  
-|   John W. Herndon  //  INTERNET: jherndo@eis.calstate.edu   |-  
-|   Long Beach, Ca.  //  Lat: 33.7706 Long: -118.1183 Elev: 0  |-  
-----  
-|  ZERO (adj) - The value of life when the computer goes down.  |-  
-----
```

Date: 17 Jun 93 06:49:49 GMT
From: ogicse!emory!wa4mei!ke4zv!gary@network.UCSD.EDU
Subject: Info-Hams Digest V93 #727
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

In article <9306161935.AA20524@ucsd.edu> 4311@cpf.navy.mil (CDR Fred W. Brunson) writes:

>In Info-Hams Digest Volume 93 : Issue 727, Faith M. Senie says
>
>>There was one station on 432 in FN22 (WA2WHD I think), waaaaay
>>down in the noise, who absolutely could not get the last letter
>>of my callsign. I had the volume on the rig up at maximum so I
>>could hear them, and I was screaming "Tango! Tango! Tango!" into
>>the mic. No luck.
>
>Why didn't you send your call sign in morse? (Oh, God. What did
>I start?) ;-)

Shame on you Fred. :-)

In a voice bandwidth, the S/N for Morse is no better than for voice.
With an operator on the other end with thoroughly programmed wetware,
he might DSP it out of the noise, but the typical operator is just
going to wonder who's tuning up on the DX frequency. :-)

Gary

```
--  
Gary Coffman KE4ZV          |   You make it,      | gatech!wa4mei!ke4zv!gary  
Destructive Testing Systems |   we break it.     | uunet!rsiatl!ke4zv!gary  
534 Shannon Way           |   Guaranteed!     | emory!kd4nc!ke4zv!gary  
Lawrenceville, GA 30244   |                   |  
-----
```

Date: Wed, 16 Jun 1993 13:02:31 GMT
From: pravda.sdsc.edu!news.cerf.net!usc!howland.reston.ans.net!darwin.sura.net!

To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

Geez. You admit you didn't read the print. You went in the store and bought it on impulse, and then feel the need to whine here that you were somehow "taken"?

Betcha when you need a resistor or cap and it's just before closing time at the Radio Shack, you call and ask them to stay...and they probably do...so you can buy 99cents in parts to save your bacon and then come back here to the 'Net to bitch about how over-priced RS is.

Lighten up...and practice your reading, and your math. November 1992 data, accessible on a PC that takes up only 19MB (with all the bells and whistles installed) and is quick is a good deal for \$39.95. If you stop and think (flame on -- that part may be difficult for you -- flame off ;^) you are paying \$39.95 for a great little program, and ONLY \$10.00 plus S&H for a new callbook every year! That's a helluva deal and leave you nowhere to gripe! Sheeesh!

Jack

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+-----+
| Jack GF Hill          |Voice: (615) 459-2636 -           Ham Call: W4PPT |
| P. O. Box 1685        |Modem: (615) 377-5980 -   Bicycling and SCUBA Diving |
| Brentwood, TN 37024  |Fax:   (615) 459-0038 -           Life Member - ARRL |
| root@jackatak.raider.net - "Plus ca chnagez, plus ca la meme chose" |
+-----+
```

From: ogicse!emory!wa4mei!ke4zv!gary@network.UCSD.EDU

Subject: SB200 power supply problems - help please.
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

In article <C8qHGq.679@srigenprp.sr.hp.com> alanb@sr.hp.com (Alan Bloom) writes:

>Re: Necessity of parallel resistors/capacitors in a high-voltage
>rectifier string. I claim that the resistors and diodes are not
>necessary or desirable.

>

>RATIONALE FOR THE RESISTORS:

>

>The rationale for the resistors is to equalize the voltage drop across
>the diodes during the portion of the AC cycle that the diodes are
>reverse-biased. However, the resistors are NOT necessary, even if the
>diode leakage currents are not matched.

>

>When reverse-biased a rectifier diode acts like a zener: As you increase
>the reverse voltage, the current is low ("leakage" current) until the
>voltage exceeds the zener breakdown when the current rapidly approaches
>infinity (zzzzzzzaaaaaapppp!). However, here is the key: In a series
>diode string, THE CURRENTS THROUGH ALL THE DIODES ARE EQUAL. Yes, the
>lowest-leakage diode will drop all of the reverse voltage until its zener
>limit is reached. But at that point, the current will be limited by the
>next lowest-leakage diode in the string. So long as you don't exceed
>the sum of all the breakdown voltages, no destructive breakdown occurs.

This is a novel approach to the problem. However, I think the reason commercial designers don't do this is that most rectifier diodes aren't built to operate as zeners and some junction damage occurs when the reverse voltage threshold is exceeded. The damage is often cumulative, and ultimately results in a failed diode.

>Another problem with both resistors and capacitors is reliability.
>Equipment failure rate tends to be proportional to the number of parts:
>3 times the parts = 3 times the failure rate. If any one of the diodes
>or resistors fails, it will likely take out the whole diode string.

A third problem is cost, each extra part adds cost to a mass produced item. Most good production engineers are trained to eliminate any unnecessary parts, yet they all seem to include the networks across diode strings. Are they just following conventional wisdom, or perhaps do they know something you've overlooked?

Gary

--

Gary Coffman KE4ZV		You make it,		gatech!wa4mei!ke4zv!gary
Destructive Testing Systems		we break it.		uunet!rsiatl!ke4zv!gary
534 Shannon Way		Guaranteed!		emory!kd4nc!ke4zv!gary

Lawrenceville, GA 30244

Date: 17 Jun 93 06:46:47 GMT

From: ogicse!emory!wa4mei!ke4zv!gary@network.UCSD.EDU

To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

References <1993Jun16.094748.26829@ke4zv.uucp>, <1vnlafINNabc@network.ucsd.edu>, <C8q8FI.C4A@athena.cs.uga.edu>

Reply-To : gary@ke4zv.UUCP (Gary Coffman)

Subject : Re: Digital microwave project

In article <C8q8FI.C4A@athena.cs.uga.edu> mcovingt@aisun3.ai.uga.edu (Michael Covington) writes:

>

>There is an ongoing muddle arising from the fact that transmission of
>music (as audio) is forbidden, but transmission of video programs with
>incidental music is permitted.

>

>If ultimate intent is to prohibit "broadcasting of entertainment to
>the general public" then the FCC needs to address the fact that some
>of these video programs are no less "entertaining" than music would
>be.

>

>I would prefer seeing them drop the ban on music in bands where
>fast-scan ATV is permitted (and where there is little need to conserve
>spectrum).

I'd prefer the FCC to get out of the content regulation business altogether. But that's not going to happen because of the political situation. The urge to control and social engineer is too strong. With the rise in popularity of talk radio, who's to say normal amateur radio activities aren't entertaining the public. There's certainly enough interest in scanners. Perhaps we need regulations to make amateur talk less interesting. Naw! that's already the case too often. :-)

Gary

--

Gary Coffman KE4ZV		You make it,		gatech!wa4mei!ke4zv!gary
Destructive Testing Systems		we break it.		uunet!rsiatl!ke4zv!gary
534 Shannon Way		Guaranteed!		emory!kd4nc!ke4zv!gary
Lawrenceville, GA 30244				

Date: 17 Jun 93 05:24:26 GMT

From: ogicse!emory!wa4mei!ke4zv!gary@network.UCSD.EDU
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

References <1v17lpINN79h@network.ucsd.edu>, <1993Jun16.094748.26829@ke4zv.uucp>,
<1vnlafINNabc@network.ucsd.edu>
Reply-To : gary@ke4zv.UUCP (Gary Coffman)
Subject : Re: Digital microwave project

In article <1vnlafINNabc@network.ucsd.edu> brian@nothing.ucsd.edu (Brian Kantor)
writes:

>
>This isn't directly relevant, Gary, but was the citing FCC officer the
>same one who is rumoured to have cited his wife for failing to identify,
>and was responsible for the infamous "900 number packet message"
>debacle? I ask because it's about the right part of the country....

No, it was the Field Engineer who cited the DeKalb police for transmitting
false and misleading signals by mounting an old radar unit on a road sign
to fool motorists into thinking there was a speed trap ahead.

Gary

--
Gary Coffman KE4ZV | You make it, | gatech!wa4mei!ke4zv!gary
Destructive Testing Systems | we break it. | uunet!rsiatl!ke4zv!gary
534 Shannon Way | Guaranteed! | emory!kd4nc!ke4zv!gary
Lawrenceville, GA 30244 | |

Date: Thu, 17 Jun 1993 06:39:05 GMT
From: haven.umd.edu!darwin.sura.net!bogus.sura.net!news-feed-1.peachnet.edu!emory!
wa4mei!ke4zv!gary@uunet.uu.net
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

References <m1f1tmINNrn3@exodus.Eng.Sun.COM>, <2332@indep1.UUCP>,
<1vnm27INNaob@network.ucsd.edu>feed-1.p
Reply-To : gary@ke4zv.UUCP (Gary Coffman)
Subject : Re: Ham radio in TV shows

In article <1vnm27INNaob@network.ucsd.edu> brian@nothing.ucsd.edu (Brian Kantor)
writes:

>The key to enjoying a movie, or play, or book, or even (gasp) television
>show is "the willing suspension of disbelief".
>
>If you can't suspend your disbelief and enjoy the film, et al, then in
>some measure, the author/producer/writer/directory/cinematographer has
>failed. And so have you.

Artistic license is one thing, but certain gross errors aren't your failure. For example, jet contrails or power lines across an old western sky, or to pick on my favorite bad movie, when a soldier in _Ice Station Zebra_ knocks over a styrofoam iceberg. The classic squealing tires on gravel is an example of artistic license. It cracks me up, but it's intended to add to the dramatic tension of the car chase.

It's unfortunate fact that much of the public gets their education about unfamiliar subjects from TV and movies. When the movies get it wrong, it can have a bad effect. So hams get upset when ham equipment is portrayed as doing impossible things, and gun owners get upset when firearms are portrayed incorrectly. If the movie is parody, or set in a science fiction or fantasy venue, then such gaffes are often acceptable. But when the movie presents a claim to realism, it's not acceptable for them to do ten impossible things before breakfast. It's the job of the continuity people and the technical advisor to keep things straight.

Being in the business is a curse in some ways. I notice all the inconsistencies, the bad double shadow lighting in an "outdoor" scene, the boom mike in the shot, etc. I even watch the cue marks for reel change. If the movie's story still grips me, the crew has done a superb job.

Gary

--

Gary Coffman KE4ZV		You make it,		gatech!wa4mei!ke4zv!gary
Destructive Testing Systems		we break it.		uunet!rsiatl!ke4zv!gary
534 Shannon Way		Guaranteed!		emory!kd4nc!ke4zv!gary
Lawrenceville, GA 30244				

Date: 17 Jun 93 06:09:51 GMT

From: ogicse!emory!wa4mei!ke4zv!gary@network.UCSD.EDU

To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

References <C8nAqG.4px@athena.cs.uga.edu>, <1993Jun15.141003.22243@ke4zv.uucp>, <1993Jun16.140050.19446@ryn.mro4.dec.com>

Reply-To : gary@ke4zv.UUCP (Gary Coffman)

Subject : Re: Digital microwave project

In article <1993Jun16.140050.19446@ryn.mro4.dec.com> taber@cimfie.enet.dec.com (PStJTT) writes:

>

>In article <1993Jun15.141003.22243@ke4zv.uucp>, gary@ke4zv.uucp (Gary Coffman)

writes...

>>>Actually, the FCC's intentions are clear, and are not quite what you
>>>said. Transmission of descriptions of music is OK so long as the music
>>>cannot be directly demodulated as such with ordinary radio equipment
>>>-- that is, you can transmit all the MIDI sequences you want, but don't
>>>transmit music as audio on FM, AM, or SSB.

>>

>>And exactly *where* in the rules does it say that? Part 97.113(d)
>>flatly prohibits the transmission of music. It does not specify a
>>modulation encoding. This part deals strictly with content, and
>>not the method used to convey that content.

>

>Good analysis IFF part 97 was the only word on the subject. But it's
>not. I believe the ARRL has already asked for guidance on the regulation
>and have been told that "music" in that regulation means, as any
>rational person would expect, music as you hear it in the broadcast
>band. It does not mean other methods of representing music and does not
>mean music picked up in the background when public service operators are
>working a parade or music incidentally picked up from your car radio
>when you're talking on the repeater.

>

>It is common, and in fact required, that regulatory bodies give
>interpretation of their regulations those interpretations aren't as
>binding as the regulations themselves, but they are binding to a lesser
>extent and can be depended upon for day-to-day operation.

>

>So give the armchair lawyer act a break.

I'd be tempted to follow that advice if it weren't for the number
of picayune citations our stations have received over the years.
Our communications lawyers tell us to stick to the written regulations
and not some nebulous intent as interpreted by a staffer. They say
that if it's not published in the Federal Register, or formally
issued in writing to the station in question, we should ignore
such interpretations.

Gary

--

Gary Coffman KE4ZV		You make it,		gatech!wa4mei!ke4zv!gary
Destructive Testing Systems		we break it.		uunet!rsiatl!ke4zv!gary
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Lawrenceville, GA 30244				

End of Info-Hams Digest V93 #740
